

Message Text

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66

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCI-06

AID-20 NEA-10 OMB-01 DRC-01 /190 W

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R 171930Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5572

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CS

SUBJECT: FIGUERES' STATEMENT ON MID-EAST OIL SUPPLY

REF: SAN JOSE 4051

1. IN HIS RADIO/TV ADDRESS OF NOVEMBER 16
PRESIDENT FIGUERES HAD VERY HARSH WORDS FOR THE
ARAB POLICY OF HOLDING BACK PETROLEUM SUPPLIES AS A
LEVER IN THEIR STRUGGLE WITH ISRAEL. AS REPORTED IN
FRIDAY PRESS, FIGUERES SAID "THERE IS NO REASON WHY
FOUR SULTANS, SITTING ON THEIR BARRELS OF OIL, CAN
CAUSE SO MANY PROBLEMS FOR A CIVILIZATION BASED ON CON-
SUMPTION OF THIS PRODUCT -- THEREBY BRINGING THE WORLD NEAR
THE POINT WHERE IT MUST USE VIOLENCE TO OBTAIN JUSTICE."
TO UNDERLINE THE POINT HE ADDED THAT THE ARAB POLICY WAS A
"SUICIDAL ATTITUDE" THAT OUGHT TO "MOVE HUMANITY TOWARDS
TAKING MEASURES NECESSARY TO ASSURE THAT PETROLEUM BELONGS
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TO HUMANITY. EITHER IT SHOULD BE PUT AT THE DISPOSAL OF

ALL OR WE WILL TAKE IT WHERE IT IS."

2. COMMENT: FIGUERES HAS NEVER MADE A SECRET OF HIS PREFERENCE OF THE ISRAELI OVER THE ARAB CAUSE, BUT IN THIS INSTANCE HE WAS SURELY MOTIVATED BY MORE THAN SENTIMENT SINCE COSTA RICA IS PRESENTLY EXPERIENCING A DIFFICULT FUEL SHORTAGE PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE MIDEAST CRISIS. IN THE MIDST OF A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE CAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE IS, THE GOVERNMENT PARTY RISKS LOSING VOTES SIMPLY "BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO SOMETHING". WHILE SOMEWHAT LESS TEMPERATE THAN USUAL, THE SPEECH WAS NOT REALLY ATYPICAL OF FIGUERES. IT WAS, OF COURSE, DESIGNED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. WE DOUBT THAT FIGUERES WOULD HAVE ANYTHING SO DRASTIC IN MIND AS CUTTING OFF THE FLOW OF COFFEE TO SAUDI ARABIA.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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To: STATE
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